

Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend Figure 4 as provided on the Replacement Sheet including Figure 4 (and Figures 1-3), submitted herewith. Figure 4 has been amended to add reference numbers 2 and 5. Support for this amendment appears, *inter alia*, in original Figure 1, and in page 3, line 27, and page 4, line 2, of the English language translation of the specification.

Remarks

Restriction Requirement

In reply to the Office Action dated November 16, 2010, requesting an election of one invention to prosecute in the above-referenced patent application, Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claims 1-7. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

This election is made **with traverse**. The Examiner asserts that the elected invention of Group I (claims 1-7) and non-elected inventions of Group II (claims 8-9) and Group III (claim 10) "do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features (STF)." Office Action, page 2. Applicants respectfully disagree. PCT Rule 13.2 is directed to "Circumstances in Which the Requirement of Unity of Invention Is to Be Considered Fulfilled" and states:

Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirement of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 *shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features*. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

(emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that there is "a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features," as required by PCT Rule 13.2 for fulfilling the unity of invention requirement. Each of Groups I-III recite the device of claim 1, and therefore all of the Groups involve a same STF that is defined by the contribution that features recited in claim 1 makes over the prior art. In particular, Group I involves the STF recited in claim 1. Group II includes claim 8, which recites "the device as claimed in claim 1," and therefore recites in dependent format the STF recited in claim 1. Further, it is noted that several of the

features of claim 8 find antecedent basis in the features introduced in claim 1 (e.g., "the radial slot" and "the connection element"). Group III includes claim 10, which recites "one or more devices as claimed in claim 1" and therefore recites in dependent format the STF recited in claim 1. Thus, each of Groups I-III recite *one or more of the same* STF, i.e., "those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art," as provided by PCT Rule 13.2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims.

In addition, Applicants retain the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144

Requirement for Election of Species

In reply to the Office Action dated November 16, 2010, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species B (Fig. 4). Claims 1-7 read on such species, and claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are generic. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

Applicants assert the right to claim additional species in the event that a generic claim thereto is found to be allowable in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.141(a). This election is made **without traverse**.

Consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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